



KY 32 IMPROVEMENT ROWAN AND ELLIOTT COUNTIES PROJECT NEWSLETTER APRIL 2012



SPRING IS HERE



With the arrival of Spring, the environmental phase on the KY 32 project is in full swing. Our team is active analyzing data collected in the field and coordinating the results with resource agencies. This is part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements when utilizing federal funds for highway improvements. The NEPA documentation will include evaluation of the alternatives considered for the project.

We will be preparing baseline reports to document socioeconomic data, natural and biological resources, hazardous material sites and potential archaeological resources. The findings of the baselines will be developed into an Environmental Assessment for the project which will be available for public review.

PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

The Public Meeting to review the project alternatives was held in Sandy Hook, KY at the Adkins-Caudill Performing Arts Center on October 27, 2011 from 5-7 PM. Approximately 120 members of the public attended the meeting. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) and its consultants were available to discuss the alternatives and answer questions. The exhibits included high-tech visualization to help the public understand the options. Surveys were collected for the alternatives along with an overall project survey form. A summary is shown below:

KY 32 Public Meeting Summary of Individual Responses (10/27/11)

Combination of Half-Sheets and Questionnaire Sheets					Responses for each
	ADVANCE	%	ELIMINATE	%	
Alt. 1	7	11.7%	53	88.3%	60
Alt. 1A	52	65.0%	28	35.0%	80
Alt. 1B	20	36.4%	35	63.6%	55
Alt. 2	5	9.4%	48	90.6%	53
Alt. 2A	14	25.5%	41	74.5%	55
Alt. 3	68	58.1%	49	41.9%	117

SECTION 106

A Historic Architectural Eligibility Study has been completed which evaluated 88 properties within the 14-mile project area and recommended five as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Kentucky Heritage Council concurred with the property eligibility determinations and boundaries on January 13, 2012. We will be conducting **Section 106** coordination with our consulting parties in the near future.



Concord School



Johnson House



Black-Caudill Log House

Refer to the KY 32 Project website for additional information regarding alternatives and project information.

<http://transportation.ky.gov/District-9/Pages/KY-32-Project.aspx>



KY 32 IMPROVEMENT ROWAN AND ELLIOTT COUNTIES PROJECT NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2012

PROJECT MEETINGS AND COORDINATION UPDATE

KYTC PROGRESS TEAM MEETING - JANUARY 24, 2012

The purpose of the meeting was to provide KYTC with an update, discuss the public meeting comments and evaluate the alternatives. The goal was to decide which alternatives were worthy of further consideration.

SUMMARY

- Based on input from the public meeting and the evaluation of the Project Team; Alternatives 1 and 2 were eliminated from further consideration due to the high number of residential relocations and the impact to cemeteries with these alternatives. Alternatives 1A, 1B, 2A, and 3 were recommended for further evaluation.
- Alternatives advanced will require further study of the earthwork requirements. This will require additional engineering to document the borrow (fill) and/or excess material (cut) needed to construct each alternative.
- Determined the project is not located within an identified US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Indiana bat polygon. If located within the polygon, it would have required a substantial contribution to the Indiana Bat Conservation Fund since Indiana bats are listed as an endangered species by the USFWS.
- A coordination meeting will be scheduled with the Kentucky Division of Water (KDOW) and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) to discuss permitting requirements and the potential impacts to the Ed Mabry-Laurel Gorge Wildlife Management Area.

RESOURCE AGENCY COORDINATION MEETING - FEBRUARY 29, 2012

The purpose of the meeting was to update the KDOW and KDFWR on the project and discuss the earthwork requirements for the alternatives advanced for further consideration.

SUMMARY

- Alternative 1A, 1B and 2A will require extensive borrow material for construction due to their proximity to existing KY 32. Alternative 3, which is off-alignment and allows geometric flexibility, balances the cuts and fills required for construction.
- Alternative 3 has the most stream impacts compared to the other alternatives. However, the unknowns of the other alternatives are the potential impacts on streams, wetlands and other resources as a result of "borrow sites". These sites will be chosen by the contractor during construction and are areas cut out for material required to build Alternative 1A, 1B and 2A. To help define this unknown, the project team will coordinate with geologists and develop a methodology for identifying potential borrow site areas within the corridor. Once quantified, the streams and wetlands impacts are expected to be similar Alternative 3.
- The project has no direct impacts to streams identified as Exceptional Waters and an Individual Kentucky Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (KPDES) is not required. However, KYTC committed to mitigation similar to projects requiring an Individual KPDES. This includes post-construction erosion control to lessen impacts to the water quality in the watershed.
- The project team will consider the time savings for the traveling public and positive benefits of the road improvements when comparing the impacts for each of the alternatives.
- Alternative 3 (off-alignment) will consider bicycle use opportunities on the residual roadway of existing KY 32.

NEXT STEPS :

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| -POTENTIAL RELOCATION PROPERTY INTERVIEWS | -BASELINE DEVELOPMENT | -SECTION 106 COORDINATION |
| -BORROW ANALYSIS/COMPARISON | -AGENCY COORDINATION | -ALTERNATIVE REFINEMENT |